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妖刀開祖丸は柔らかとした
涼の身体を使い、
血を求めるため
街へ向かう！
そこで涼は国一行れた館の
秘密を見破れるか？
刀の人格が見える
異能を持つ修行時代の
刀研ぎ職人物語！

妖刀 ようとう

かまたきみこ

Bunkasha Comics

KATANA カタナ 3

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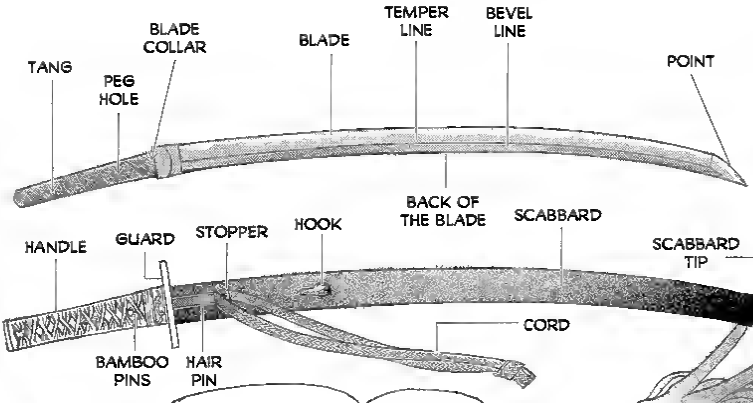
THE STORY SO FAR

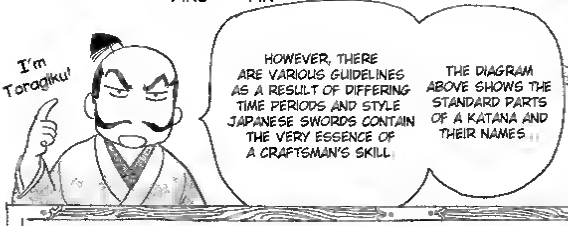
Akira Nankawa was born into a famous family of swordsmiths. People are expecting him to take over the family business, but Akira is worried that he's not cut out for it. He has few friends and lacks confidence in everything. He however possesses the special ability to see swords which have taken the form of humans and animals! Because of this ability, Akira gets dragged into one sword related incident after another—

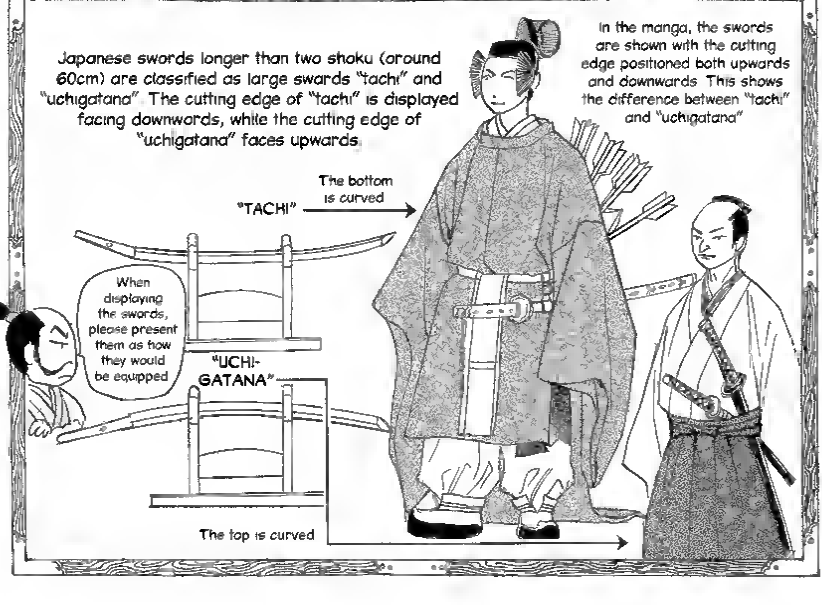
Akira Narikawa
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TRAINING TO BECOME A SWORD SHARPENER. HE CAN SEE THE TRUE HUMAN/ANIMAL FORMS TAKEN BY THE SWORDS.
Kyouzaki
AKIRA'S CLASSMATE. HIS ONLY TALENT IS BEING GOOD AT MATH. HE'S A DEFIANT AND FREE SPIRITED PERSON.
Eri Hazuki
AKIRA'S CLASSMATE AND THE DAUGHTER OF A FORMER NOBLE FAMILY.
Kasane
THE HUMAN FORM OF THE KASANE SWORD. WHICH CAN ONLY BE DRAWN BY HEIRS OF THE SAKIMI FAMILY. AKIRA BECAME KASANE'S MASTER WHEN HE DREW THE SWORD.
The swords of the Narikawa family
THEY ARE FOND OF AKIRA, AND ASSIST HIM.
Kinmaro
Shoukoma
Toragiku

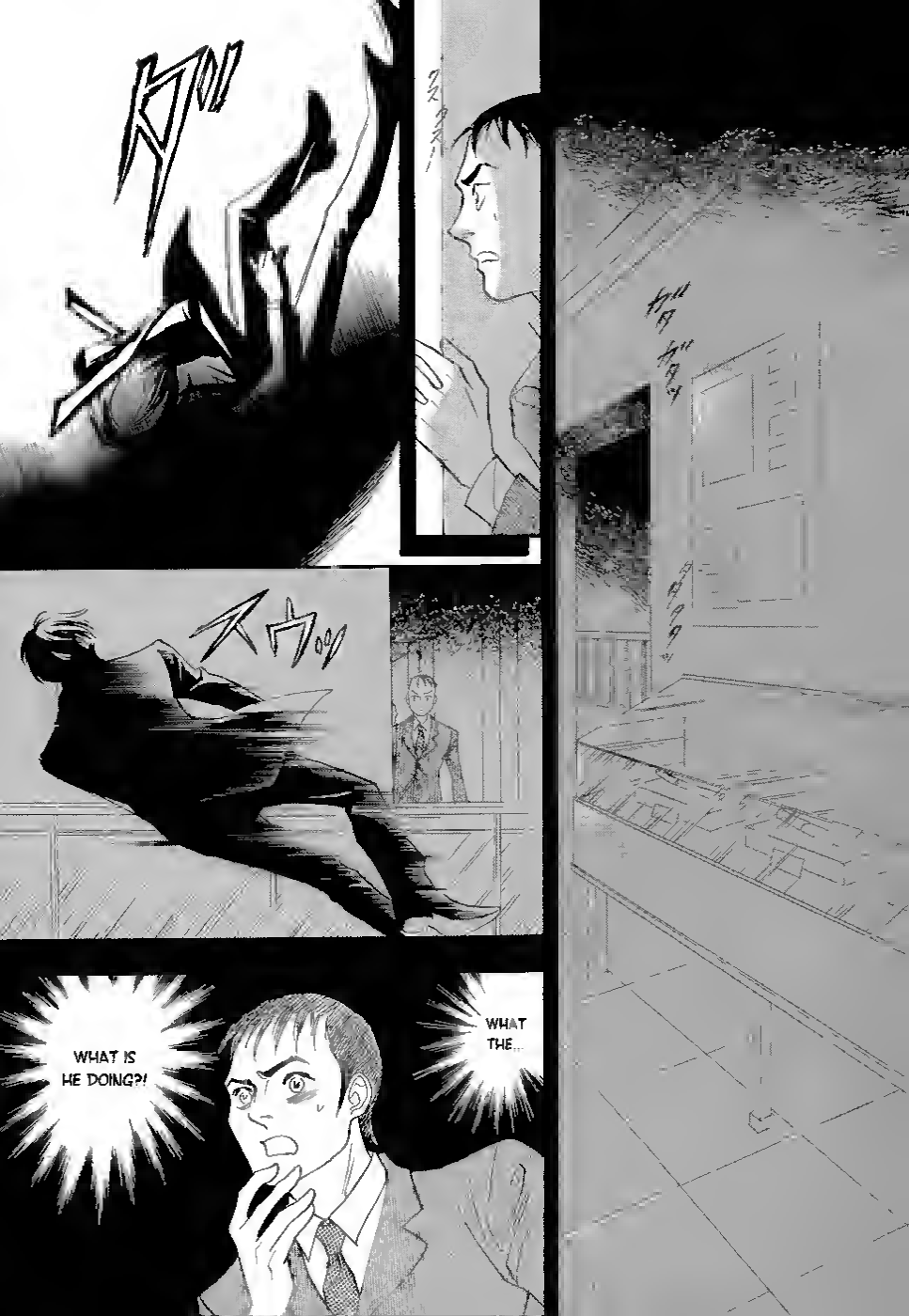
第11話 黒龍

An Introduction to KATANA




I'm Toragiku!
HOWEVER, THERE ARE VARIOUS GUIDELINES AS A RESULT OF DIFFERING TIME PERIODS AND STYLE JAPANESE SWORDS CONTAIN THE VERY ESSENCE OF A CRAFTSMAN'S SKILL
THE DIAGRAM ABOVE SHOWS THE STANDARD PARTS OF A KATANA AND THEIR NAMES


Japanese swords longer than two shaku (around 60cm) are classified as large swords "tachi" and "uchigatana". The cutting edge of "tachi" is displayed facing downwards, while the cutting edge of "uchigatana" faces upwards.
In the manga, the swords are shown with the cutting edge positioned both upwards and downwards. This shows the difference between "tachi" and "uchigatana"
"TACHI"
The bottom is curved
When displaying the swords, please present them as how they would be equipped
"UCHI-GATANA"
The top is curved


WHAT IS HE DOING?!
WHAT THE...

AHHH!!!
A MON-STER!
SCARLET DRAGON!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
YOUNG MASTER
WERE YOU BABY-SITTING AT THE MUSEUM AGAIN TODAY?

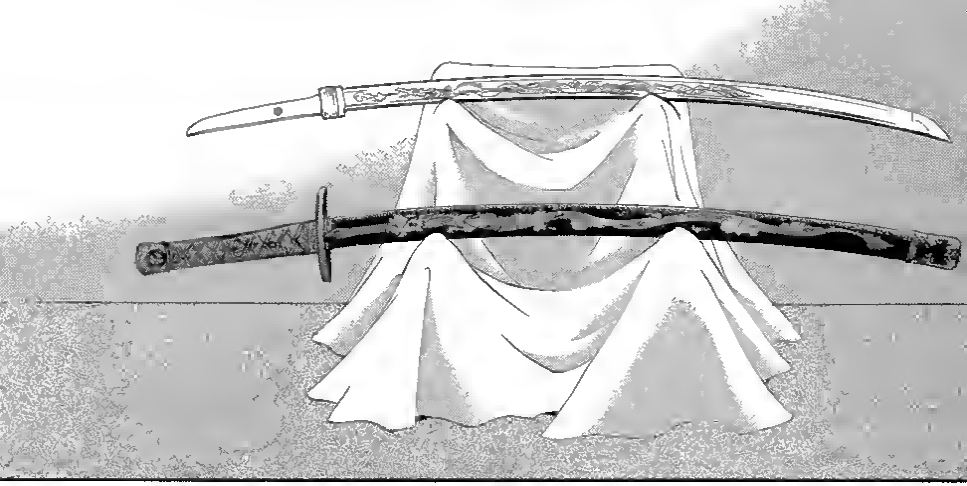
BABY-SITTING?
BABIES CRY FOR MILK, SO YOU MUST HAVE FED HIM
YOU MUST'VE HELD HIM AND ROCKED HIM, THEN SUNG A LULLABY
IT WASN'T A BABY, IT WAS SCARLET DRAGON!
I WENT TO CHECK UP ON HIS EXHIBIT!
THE SCARLET DRAGON THAT WAS SENT FROM THE PREFECTURAL MUSEUM FOR SHARPENING
HAS SINCE THEN BECAME ATTACHED TO YOU, LIKE A PUPPY
WELL...
YOU GOT ATTACHED TO HIM, TOO, YOUNG MASTER
YOU'VE GONE TO THE MUSEUM MANY TIMES ALREADY
THE MUSEUM'S PERMANENT EXHIBIT IS QUITE PLAIN AND RARELY GETS A LOT OF VISITORS
HE CAN GET REALLY LONELY,
SO I WAS WORRIED

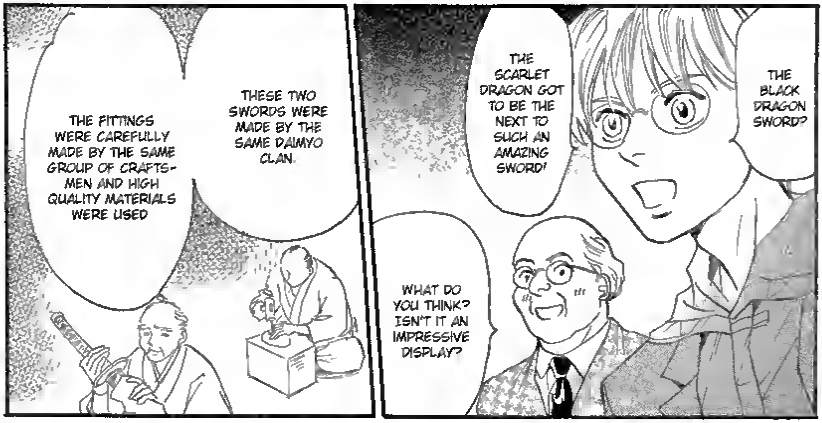
SCARLET DRAGON
SCARLET DRAGON
IT'S ME!
WHOA!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! I'LL PLAY WITH YOU!
COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE STAIRS THERE. NO ONE CAN SEE US.
YOUNG MASTER, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE DOING THAT.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT HAS NEVER CROSSED MY MIND THAT...
...I'M GETTING MYSELF INVOLVED TOO MUCH.

AH
AKIRA
ガラッ
HAVE YOU FINISHED THE CLEANING?
THOSE WON'T COME OFF EASILY
HE MUST HAVE BEEN CRYING WHEN YOU WENT HOME
WHAT?!
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T SEE THEM, BUT THERE ARE DRAGON TEARS ON YOUR CLOTHES
HUH?
THE SCARLET DRAGON YOU SHARPENED WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE MOST PROMINENT PLACE
THERE'S A PAMPHLET FROM THE MUSEUM HERE
THEY'LL BE EXHIBITING ITEMS BELONGING TO THE FAMILIES OF FEUDAL LORDS
YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING IF YOU GO
THERE'LL BE OTHER AMAZING SWORDS AND EQUIPMENT
WILL BE THE MAIN EXHIBIT?!
THE SCARLET DRAGON

THEY'RE ALL SO LUXURIOUS.
THESE ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM FEUDAL LORDS.
A DELICATELY EMBROIDERED SHORT-SLEEVED KIMONO
A SPLENDID ARMOR
A COSMETIC CASE MADE FROM MOTHER-OF-PEARL
ONE STUDENT, PLEASE
DAIMYO ARTIFACTS
This Way
キョロ…
I WONDER WHERE SCARLET DRAGON IS
OF COURSE I KNOW HIM!
DO YOU KNOW HIM, DIRECTOR?
AH!
DIRECTOR YAMASAKI
IF IT ISN'T AKIRA-KUN!
WELL,
HEY, YOU!

EH?!
HE'S THE GRANDSON OF THE SWORD-SMITH KOUZAN NARIKAWA
THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE OF MY HOMETOWN
HE'S A TALENTED BOY HE SHARPENS SWORDS ALREADY AND ATTENDS A PREP SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME
HE'S ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO DID THE MAIN-TENANCE ON OUR SCARLET DRAGON
AH
IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM.
A TALENTED BOY ? NO THAT MIGHT BE THE REASON WHY HE S STRANGE
WE'VE GOT A NICE SWORD HERE. PLEASE, COME THIS WAY
SEE COULDN.T YOU SAY THAT THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN GENIUS AND INSANITY?




THESE TWO SWORDS WERE MADE BY THE SAME DAIMYO CLAN.
THE FITTINGS WERE CAREFULLY MADE BY THE SAME GROUP OF CRAFTSMEN AND HIGH QUALITY MATERIALS WERE USED
THE BLACK DRAGON SWORD?
THE SCARLET DRAGON GOT TO BE THE NEXT TO SUCH AN AMAZING SWORD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T IT AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY?

THE DECORATION ON THIS BLACK DRAGON IS REALLY AMAZING...
THE WHOLE SHEATH IS COMPLETELY DECORATED!
INDEED!
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW NERVOUS I WAS REGARDING ITS HANDLING.

THE DRAGON'S SCALES ARE GOLD LEAF OVERLAID WITH BLACK LACQUER, IN ADDITION TO A PARTIAL COVERING OF MOTHER-OF-PEARL AND GOLD LACQUER.
THE ENGRAVING OF THE DRAGON IS DELICATE,
AND THE METAL FITTINGS ARE A LAVISH FRETWORK AND RAISED INLAY
THE GUARD IS DECORATED WITH A RAISED DESIGN IN COPPER ALLOY THE REVERSE IS CARVED BY HAND
I THINK I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
IT'S VERY OLD, SO JUST CATCHING YOUR NAIL ON IT CAN SCRATCH THE SURFACE
IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT YOU'D HAVE TO PAY COMPENSATION
SWORDS ARE MEANT TO BE USED, THOUGH—
IF YOU TREAT IT AS A PIECE OF ART, IT WON'T EVEN GET TAKEN OUT OF ITS BOX
キロ

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOTHING...
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU
HMM?
DIRECTOR!!!
WHOA!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE!
AKIRA IS?
ECCENTRIC?
THAT'S RIGHT! I SAW IT MYSELF!
HE WAS IN THE ATRIUM LOBBY WHISPERING AND BUMPING INTO WALLS...
IT'S NOT NORMAL!
LOOK! SEE?!
HMM...
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BIG DEAL.
Stop that!
Tch

LOOK AT THAT!
THOSE STRANGE MOVE-MENTS OF HIS!
Whoa, whoa whoa!
LOOK HERE THE NARIKAWA FAMILY ARE KNOWN NATIONWIDE
THEY'RE FAMOUS SWORD-SMITHS, AND I'M SURE THAT HE'LL TAKE OVER SOMEDAY.
KOUSAKA-KUN... ARE YOU TRYING TO DISGRACE MY PREFECTURE'S TREASURE?
OH?! HE'S NOT THERE!
SCARLET DRAGON
YOU CAN'T DO THAT. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE TODAY.
WHAT ...
ARE YOU TWO DOING?
THAT CLOUD...
WHOSE VOICE WAS THAT?
AH!

ARE YOU—
THE BLACK DRAGON?
YOU ARE INDEED A HUMAN, BUT YOU HAVE THE EYES OF A SWORD
SEE, SCARLET DRAGON? YOU SHOULD BE GLAD!
TO HAVE SUCH A BRILLIANT AND AMAZING BROTHER!
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO CRY FROM LONELINESS ANYMORE

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WAAH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF SCARLET DRAGON!
YOU'RE BOTH SWORDS! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE ROUGH..
YOU'RE THE SWORD SHARPENER, AREN'T YOU?
SO WHAT?!
GO HOME!
DON'T TOUCH US WITH YOUR INEXPERIENCED HANDS!
DON'T COME BACK HERE AGAIN!

I WONDER IF SCARLET DRAGON WAS SCARED
A SWORD REJECTED ME
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME
MR FAMOUS SWORD-SMITH
ARE YOU GOING TO BE FALLING ABOUT ON THE STAIRS AGAIN BY YOURSELF?
DON'T THINK THAT EVERY ADULT IS GOING TO BE SO KIND TO YOU JUST BECAUSE YOUR FATHER IS SOMEONE AMAZING
IF I CATCH YOU DOING ANYTHING WEIRD AGAIN, I'LL REVEAL YOUR SECRET
I KNOW ABOUT YOU
THE CURATOR SAW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED
WITH THE SCARLET DRAGON?
AH.
HMPH!

WHAT A BIG MISTAKE IT WAS FOR HIM TO BE SEEN BY SOMEONE ELSE
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE YOUNG MASTER TOOK PITY ON THE SCARLET DRAGON AND, THUS, SPOILED HIM.
WHEN YOU SEE IT AS AN OUTSIDER THE SIGHT OF THE YOUNG MASTER WITH THE SCARLET DRAGON CERTAINLY DOES LOOK ODD
DON'T COME BACK HERE AGAIN!
THAT BLACK DRAGON WAS SO CRUEL
EVEN THOUGH SCARLET DRAGON IS STILL A KID HE TREATS HIM SO STRICTLY
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS A CHILD, YOUNG MASTER
DON'T YOU THINK THE REASON WHY SCARLET DRAGON WON'T STOP PLAYING AROUND IS BECAUSE YOU THINK OF HIM AS A PLAYMATE?
HEY, KOIMA!
BE QUIET!
HUH?
I WAS JUST TELLING THE TRUTH
Mmmph!
HEY!

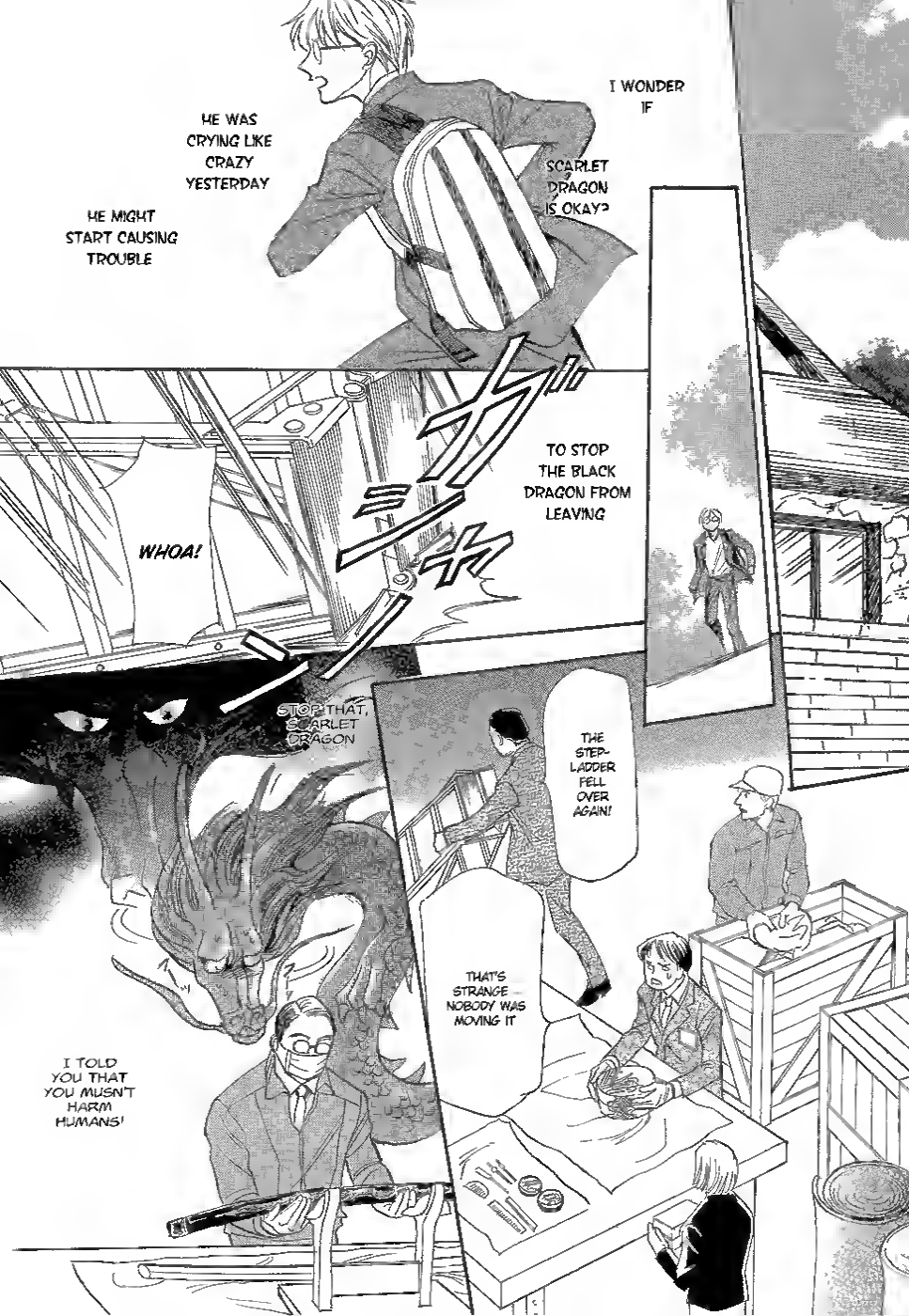
THE SCARLET DRAGON HAS BEEN WITHOUT A MASTER SINCE HE WAS BORN
IT DEPENDS ON YOU WHETHER THE SCARLET DRAGON BECOMES A REVERED SWORD OR A MERE DECORATION
ALRIGHT, SCARLET DRAGON.
WE ARE SWORDS
WE ARE SWORDS FORGED IN THE PUREST OF FLAMES, WATER, AND EARTH.
WE ARE BLADES DESTINED TO DESTROY DEMONS.
WHAT OF IT THAT YOU AND THAT SWORD SHARPENER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER?
SO WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF YOUR BEHAVIOR THIS AFTERNOON?!
THAT IS NO EXCUSE FOR FAWNING OVER AND CHARMING HIM LIKE THAT!

IS THAT AN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR FOR SUCH A TREASURED SWORD?
I'LL PAY ATTENTION OR ELSE I'LL DISCIPLINE YOU!
SENSE THE DEMONS AROUND YOU WITH YOUR HEART.
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
MALICIOUS THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS LAYING AFTER AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTAMINUTE PURITY!
I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT YOU WHILE I'M HERE!
ポン

HMPH! HOW INSOLENT!
YOU ARE HERE AGAIN!
IT'S NO GOOD
AND A FINE SACRED SWORD
YOU ARE A SWORD
WHEN I'M THERE
SCARLET DRAGON ACTS JUST LIKE A PET DOG
DIRECTOR
DID YOU COME TO HAVE A LAST LOOK AT THE BLACK DRAGON?
AH, YOU'RE HERE AGAIN TODAY?
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS LIKE LIKE A PET AND ITS DOTING OWNER
I BEHAVED MYSELF, RIGHT?
YOU'LL PET ME AFTER THIS, WON'T YOU?
THIS IS BAD
TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE EXHIBITION
HMM?

TOMORROW, THAT DELICATE BLACK DRAGON HAS TO BE PACKED UP
AND RETURNED WITHOUT A SCRATCH.
NO
CALM DOWN, SCARLET DRAGON
NO, I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO!
I SEE, YOU MUST BE INTERESTED IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF SWORDS.
PLEASE LET ME HELP TOMORROW!
IF HE'S LIKE THIS NOW, HOW WILL HE ACT TOMORROW?
BOTH HUMANS AND SWORDS
WILL SURELY HAVE TO EXPERIENCE SAYING GOODBYE ONE DAY.

WHEN THE ENEMIES HAD REACHED THE CASTLE GROUNDS,
I WAS UNABLE TO PROTECT MY MASTER AS HUMANS WERE CAPTIVATED BY ME
I WAS A SPLENDID SWORD.
LISTEN CAREFULLY, SCARLET DRAGON.
YOU MUSTN'T CONTINUE TO BE ATTACHED TO THE PAST.
A SWORD'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT ITS MASTER!
EVEN THOUGH THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A CHANCE AT VICTORY IF THEY HAD UNSHEATHED ME AND POINTED ME TOWARDS THE ENEMY!!
MY MASTER GAVE ME TO ONE OF HIS RETAINERS AND I WAS QUICKLY DISTANCED FROM THE BATTLE.
HOW ANNOYING
THE SCARLET DRAGON HE FELL ASLEEP
IS SOWING THE SEEDS OF A GREAT DISASTER
ARE YOU LISTENING YOUR ATTACHMENT TO THAT SWORD SHARPENER


I WONDER IF SCARLET DRAGON IS OKAY?
HE WAS CRYING LIKE CRAZY YESTERDAY
HE MIGHT START CAUSING TROUBLE
TO STOP THE BLACK DRAGON FROM LEAVING
WHOA!
STOP THAT, SCARLET DRAGON
THE STEP-LADDER FELL OVER AGAIN!
THAT'S STRANGE... NOBODY WAS MOVING IT
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU MUSN'T HARM HUMANS!

美術運送
WATCH OUT!
A FLAT TIRE?! WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT?
SCARLET DRAGON!
WAIT!

WATCH OUT!!!
THE FOLD-ING SCREEN FELL OVER!
HURRY UP AND CHECK IF IT'S DAMAGED!
CALL SECURITY!
GOT YOU!!

SCARLET DRAGON! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
AH!!!

AKIRA!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DIRECTOR!
THAT STUDENT RAN IN HERE, GAVE THE LORRY FLAT TIRE, AND KNOCKED OVER THE ARTIFACTS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
NO ONE CAN SEE YOU!
YOU FOOL!
I KNEW IT!!!
HE WAS THE ONE CAUSING TROUBLE?!
IS THAT YOU AKIRA-KUN?
DIDN'T YOU COME TO LEARN ABOUT TRANSPORTING SWORDS?
THAT SWORD SHARPENER IS TAKING THE BLAME FOR ALL THOSE THOUGHTLESS THINGS YOU DID.
ONCE HUMANS SUSPECT SOMEONE, THEIR DISTRUST BREEDS HATRED
NO ONE CAN SEE WHERE YOU BIT HIM, EITHER

I AM A SACRED SWORD... THE SCARLET DRAGON!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
DIRECTOR! I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
HE'S A STRANGE PERSON! AND DANGEROUS, TOO!
I'LL PROTECT THAT SWORD SHARPENER MYSELF!
THIS FAILURE IS PARTLY MY FAULT
CALL HIS SCHOOL AND WARN THEM, TOO...
QUICKLY! CALL KOUZAN-SENSEI'S HOUSE AND CONTACT AKIRA'S PARENTS!

AH...
BLACK DRAGON?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH...
WHAT?
うわあああ
KOUSAKA-KUN?

JUST A SMALL IMPACT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO DAMAGE THE BLACK DRAGON!
STOP THAT, KOUSAKA!
I'M SORRY, BUT I WILL SACRIFICE MY BEAUTIFUL FITTINGS AND BLADE TO DISPEL
THE HATRED TOWARDS THE SWORD SHARPENER THAT HAS GROWN INSIDE YOU
MY BODY IS
MOVING BY IT-SELF!
SCARLET DRAGON!
SCARLET DRAGON!

FLY!
DON'T CRY!
YOU'RE A SACRED SWORD, TOO!
I'M GOING TO BUMP INTO IT!
PROTECT THE BLACK DRAGON!
ひゃんっ

WELL DONE, AKIRA-KUN!
ARE YOU OK, KOUSAKA?
THE SWORD IS SAFE.

SWORD SHARPENER
THE SCARLET DRAGON MATURED
WHEN YOU GAVE HIM AN ORDER
SCARLET DRAGON
HE WON'T BE CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN.
THE BLACK DRAGON DEPARTED
AND THE SCARLET DRAGON MATURED IN AN INSTANT
SO IT WAS THE YOUNG MASTER WHO WAS ATTACHED TO THE SCARLET DRAGON, AFTER ALL
OH, DEAR
THE SPOT WHERE I WAS BITTEN HURT FOR A WHILE

Black Dragon || END

Credits

ENIGMA | SCANNER & EDITOR
YUKI | TRANSLATOR
MAMAMAIA | PROOFREADER
ENIX | QUALITY CHECKER

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ISKULTRIP SCANS

第12話 白浪刀
THE SHIRANAMI SWORD

MOM WENT OUT TO A PARTY
DAD AND GRANDPA ATTENDED A FAMILY REUNION
I'M THE ONLY ONE AT HOME OKAY!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
I CAN'T REPAIR SOME OF THESE UNIFORMS TWO JACKETS AND A PAIR OF PANTS
THEY'VE ENDED UP WORTHLESS BECAUSE OF MY SWORD INCIDENTS
I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THESE MISERABLE UNIFORMS TODAY—
BUT IF I WRAP THEM UP AND THROW THEM IN THE TRASH, I'M SURE MOM WILL FIND THEM!
AKIRA! ARE YOU BUSY? I'VE GOT LOTS OF FREE TIME!

OUR TESTS ARE OVER, SO LET'S GO SEE A MOVIE OR SOMETHING
HMM?
K-K-KYOU-ZAKI
YOU SHOULD'VE SENT A TEXT BEFORE COMING!
OH?
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HIDING? HOW SUSPICIOUS!
IT'S OKAY! I WON'T LAUGH AT YOUR TASTE IN GIRLS!
HUH?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL! COME ON, WE'RE BOTH GROWING BOYS!
KKK...
SHOW IT TO ME!
NO, I CAN'T!
THE ONE YOU RIPPED IN KYOTO
ROPE*!
OH... IT'S JUST A WORN OUT UNIFORM

*In wrestling, touching the rope is a way of break free if you are being held by an opponent

YOU'RE EXAGGERATING ALL I DID WAS CUT IT INTO SMALLER PIECES WITH SCISSORS
NO, THAT IDEA TURNED THINGS AROUND
NOW I CAN THROW IT AWAY LITTLE BY LITTLE
Destroying the evidence of a broken cup by burying it in the ground!
BY THE WAY, KYOUZAKI
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP YESTERDAY, KYOUZAKI.
YOU REALLY ARE A GENIUS
LEAVING YOUR BICYCLE AT MY HOUSE ON WEEKDAYS AND GOING TO SCHOOL WITH ME
STAYING OVERNIGHT ON SATURDAYS
STUDYING FOR TESTS AT MY HOUSE
AT THIS RATE, BOTH OF US... WELL...
GET TO THE POINT.
YOU THINK SO? IT'S CONVENIENT FOR ME
WELL,
ISN'T THAT KIND OF A BIT POINTLESS?
HEY, YOU!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND GIRLFRIENDS.

THE BOY WEARING GLASSES
I'M GOING TO LEAVE WORK EARLY TODAY.
SO COME TO MY PLACE AFTER CLASS.
I'LL SHOW YOU SOME COURTEOUS HOSPITALITY.
YOUR YOUTHFULNESS EXCITES ME.
だ〜ら
だ〜ら
EXCUSE ME!
AKIRA!
AMAZING! YOU WERE POPULAR FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!
NO... IT WASN'T THAT SUGGESTIVE INVITATION
I FELT LIKE I WAS IN DANGER
AN OFFICE LADY TRIED TO PICK YOU UP ON HER WAY TO WORK? NOW THAT'S WEIRD

I WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD
HEY, YOU OVER THERE!
SHE WOULDN'T SUIT SOMEONE OUR AGE SOMEONE MORE...
THE NEXT DAY...
WE PROBABLY WON'T SEE THE OFFICE LADY FROM YESTERDAY
I CAN'T BE OF ANY USE TO YOU, SORRY!
I'M GOING TO A CEREMONIAL CLEANSING AT A TEMPLE NOW
BUT WHEN I'M DONE, WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME AT MY PLACE...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL! SHE'D STILL BE IN MY RANGE.
THEN AFTER ANOTHER DAY...
I WONDER WHO'LL TRY TO PICK YOU UP TODAY!
HEY, YOU!
I'M ABOUT TO DEVELOP A FEAR OF WOMEN
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT
Stop it, you jerk.
UHMM...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU UNTIL YOU CAN BE INDEPENDENT
COME TO MY PLACE

I ALWAYS SEE YOU WALKING AROUND HERE
AND I REALLY WANTED TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS.
GO OUT WITH ME?
WOULD YOU...
AKIRA-SAN...
THAT'S YOUR NAME ISN'T IT?
UMM...

OKAY!
LET'S BE FRIENDS, FIRST...
THIS! THIS IS IT!
HAS TARGETED MY YOUTH!
A TRUE ARROW OF LOVE
LOOK OVER AT THE SCHOOL GATE
YOU WON'T BE GOING HOME WITH HIM TODAY, EVEN THOUGH YOU TWO ARE ALMOST INSEPARABLE?
Ah
HER NAME IS YAEKO NAKAMURA
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM A SCHOOL IN A NEIGHBORING TOWN TO SEE ME
A GIRL WHO WILL ACCEPT ME HAS FINALLY APPEARED!
EVERYONE SAYS IT'S STRANGE, THOUGH
YOUR FAMILY ARE SWORD-SMITHS?
YOU HELP OUT TOO AKIRA-KUN? THAT'S AMAZING
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I RESPECT YOU!

IT'S GETTING LATE
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT SATURDAY! I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD WEAR
C'h
I'M I'M SO HAPPY.
GOOD.
NOW I'VE CAPTURED HIS HEART.
NEXT, DECIDING WHAT TO WEAR WILL BE THE CHANCE TO SHOW OFF MY SKILLS
THEN
I WILL SURELY ACHIEVE WHAT I DESIRE.

YOUNG MASTER,
ARE YOU GOING ON A DATE TODAY?
A DATE?
DON'T SAY SUCH INDECENT THINGS!
AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE SWORDS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD...
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING SOMETHING SO UNREFINED
BUT TRY NOT TO
GET CARRIED AWAY...
BECAUSE OF YOUR YOUTH
Ah.
JEEZ! THINGS HAVEN'T GOTTEN THAT FAR YET!
SEE YOU LATER!
THIS IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO MATURE
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING, AKIRA-KUN!
TORAGIKU! SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE MADE THINGS CLEARER?!
NO!
THIS IS ALSO A TEST
PEOPLE SHOULD LEARN FIRSTHAND THAT IT'S EASY TO BE CONFUSED BY LOVE

YOU'RE SO COOL, AKIRA-KUN!
I'M HAPPY!
HEY!
AH!
YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL HANDS
PEOPLE ARE WATCH-ING
I— LOVE HANDS LIKE THIS
IT'S TRUE
IS THAT SO?

I'M CONFIDENT ABOUT INTERACTING WITH GIRLS WHEN THEY'RE THE SPIRIT OF SWORDS, THOUGH
HEY, I LIVE NEARBY MY HOUSE IS AROUND HERE.
HUH?
I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER FOR A WHILE?
ISN'T GETTING THIS CLOSE TO SOMEONE IN ONE WEEK MOVING TOO FAST?
OR IS THIS NORMAL?
I CAN'T COME ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I'LL PASS.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WHY? DO YOU HATE ME?
THAT'S GOOD!

COME THIS WAY
WAIT A MINUTE!
ギギ…
PLEASE COME INSIDE
A STORE ROOM?
I THINK I'LL GO HOME AFTER ALL
YAEKO-SAN,

NOW... THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AT HOME.
HEH HEH
YOU'RE GOING HOME AFTER YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY?
SHE'S REALLY STRONG!
AKIRA-KUN, I'VE SEEN THIS DAY
IN MY DREAMS.

I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT HIM!
ALL RIGHT
I WASN'T AWARE THAT A SKILLED SWORD SHARPENER WOULD BE AS YOUNG AS YOU.
HUH?
BUT A YOUNG MAN IS EASIER TO HANDLE.
YAEKO, TEMPT HIM UNTIL HE NO LONGER SAYS NO.

YOU CAN SEE ME?
WHAT?
DON'T YOU BELONG TO THIS FAMILY?
THAT'S WHY YOU CONTROLLED YAEKO-SAN?
THEN YOU WILL SHARPEN MY BLADE COMPLETELY.
IT'S INDECENT FOR THE PURE SPIRIT OF A SWORD
TO USE ITS FAMILY TO LURE SOMEONE!
HOW IMPERTINENT!
IT'S QUITE PRESUMPTUOUS OF YOU TO ASK WHO I AM,

I'LL HAVE MY DULL AND RUSTY BLADE
POLISHED IN
KOSHIGOE AND TOGAMI GAHARA
BUT I'M A SHORT SWORD BELONGING TO A FAMOUS ACTOR OF THE ANSEI ERA. TOEMON NAKAMURA
BOY! I WON'T LET YOU SET ONE FOOT OUT OF HERE
UNTIL YOU SHARPEN ME.

W-WHAT'S THIS?
STRAW ROPE?
UH...
UH...
WHY DO PEOPLE'S HEARTS CHANGE SO EASILY?
I WAS PRAISED AS A LEADING STAR WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL.
HOW CRUEL
UH...
I WAS FORCED INTO SUPPORTING ROLES
BUT WHEN SOMEONE YOUNGER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL APPEARED,

FINALLY, I ENDED UP PLAYING MATURE ROLES.
WHEN I TOOK OFF MY MAKE-UP, EVERY ONE OF MY DEEP WRINKLES WOULD BE ON SHOW.
UMM...
I CAN'T SHARPEN THE SWORD IF YOU DON'T TAKE THESE OFF.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
IF I TAKE THEM OFF, YOU'LL PROBABLY RUN AWAY AND LEAVE ME BEHIND.
EVERYONE FORGETS ME!
TELL ME!
DO YOU WANT TO BE SHARPENED OR NOT?!
YAEKO!

OWNING A SHORT SWORD WAS PERMITTED, EVEN FOR THOSE WHO WEREN'T WARRIORS
A FAVORED PATRON CHOSE THE MAKER, THEN PURCHASED THE SWORD AND GAVE IT AS A GIFT
A REFINED SWORD THAT WAS HANDLED BY ONE OF THE SKILLED FIVE MEN OF THE WHITE WAVES, JUUZABURO AKAHOSHI!
WHENEVER HE WENT TO A FAR/AWAY PLAYHOUSE,
IT WAS ALWAYS GLITTERING AROUND MY MASTER'S CHEST
SUCH A REFINED SWORD HAS GOTTEN SO RUSTY...
WHY DIDN'T THE PEOPLE IN THIS FAMILY TAKE CARE OF IT?
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BECOME OLD AND UGLY!

*The Five Men of the White Waves - A kabuki play written by Mokuami White Waves is a term uses to refer to thieves.

HMM, THIS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO CLEAN IT COMPLETELY
RECENTLY, I'VE STARTED CARRYING AROUND A HAZUYA STONE AND A SMALL JIZUYA STONE*
SWORDS AREN'T LIKE HUMANS. JAPANESE SWORDS ARE SPECIAL
YOU'RE SAYING THAT AGAIN
DON'T WORRY, RELAX
A SWORD THAT'S PROPERLY MAINTAINED CAN STILL LOOK BEAUTIFUL NOW,
EVEN IF IT WAS CREATED DURING THE NANBOKU-CHO ERA**
IS THAT TRUE?
THERE'S NO OTHER IRONWORK IN THIS WORLD THAT SURVIVES SO WELL
YOU SWORDS HAVE A SEMI-ETERNAL LIFETIME!

*Hazuya Stone - a good quality sharpening stone, which is made in the size of 1cm square.

Jizuya Stone - a good quality sharpening stone, which is made in the size of 1cm square or a thickness of 1mm

**The Nanboku-cho era was between 1336-1392

SEE
YAEKO
ARE YOU IN THE STOREROOM YAEKO?
MOM...
ガラッ
AH!
AH!
YOU'RE THE BOY I TALKED TO THE OTHER DAY!
THE THREE PEOPLE WHO INVITED ME TO VISIT THEM ARE ALL MEMBERS OF YAEKO-SAN'S FAMILY?!

I'M SORRY. I GOT INTO THE SPIRIT OF PERFORMING WITHOUT THINKING,
AND I INVITED YOU HERE BY ACTING THE PARTS OF THE COMPANIONS OF THE ACTOR WHO WAS ONCE MY MASTER
I THOUGHT SOMETHING STRANGE WAS GOING ON AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE YOUR DOING
I GOT HIM TO CLEAN THE SWORD!
AH, HE'S MY FRIEND!
THE COMPANIONS...
OF THE ACTOR?
The mother who was visiting a temple to ward off evil
THEN I HAD HER YOUTHFUL MOTHER PLAY THE PART OF A LADY-IN-WAITING, RETURNING FROM A VISIT TO A TEMPLE
I'll have fun with a handsome man after visiting the temple...
The older sister, who lives away from home
She's not a widow, though.
I HAD YAEKO'S SISTER PLAY THE PART OF AN ATTRACTIVE AND RICH WIDOW,
BUT YOU SAID THAT DIDN'T SUIT YOUR AGE.
YOUR NAME IS AKIRA-KUN, ISN'T IT? IS THAT SWORD REAL?
WAIT A MINUTE
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE NONE OF THEM SUITED YOUR TASTES
the father isn't like that
Don't worry.
I MADE HIM INTO A PATRON LOOKING FOR A YOUNG MAN.
YOU SAID YOU WERE FRIGHTENED OF WOMEN, SO I THOUGHT A MAN WOULD BE GOOD

OF COURSE IT IS.
WHY DID YOU ABANDON SUCH A GOOD SWORD?
OUR ANCESTOR WAS AN ACTOR. SO WE WERE SURE IT WAS A PROP.
AKIRA-KUN! COULD YOU SHARPEN IT AT YOUR HOME?
WE MUST REGISTER RIGHT AWAY, TOO!
THEY...
THEY DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT ME!
I'M SORRY, AKIRA-KUN
HOW DO I SAY THIS? IT SEEMS THAT...
I WASN'T INTERESTED IN YOU, AFTER ALL.
Sorry. I didn't think the role of a young girl would be this successful.
KYOU-ZAKI
COME AND STAY AT MY HOUSE NOW~
I POLISH AWAY LOVE ALONG WITH THE IMPURITIES ON THE SWORD.
THAT'S ME, AKIRA NARIKAWA.
THE SWORD OF SHIRANAMI
END

Credits

ENIGMA | SCANNER & EDITOR
YUKI | TRANSLATOR
MAMAMIA | PROOFREADER
ENIX | QUALITY CHECKER

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麦茶

第13話 やぐらの刀

A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE COAST OF ENOSHIMA BEFORE US,
AND A LUXURIOUS SUMMER RESORT IN KAMAKURA ALL TO OURSELVES...
This is the life!
THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE AT THE BEACH I'D RATHER AVOID THEM
I WON'T SWIM UNLESS IT'S A PRIVATE POOL
HEY, MAID! BRING ME ANOTHER LEMON SODA!
I'M FEELING THIRSTY, TOO
AN ICE-COLD...
GINGER ALE...

NO WAY! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
AKIRA!
ARE YOU OKAY?
GI...
GIN-GER...
WAA AAH!
LIKE I TOLD YOU, WE'RE LOST!
WHERE'S THE MANSION?! THE POOL?! THE MAID?! JUST HOW FURTHER ARE WE GOING TO WALK?!
LOOK, HE'S BECOME THE FIRST VIC-TIM!
THE HEAT
IS MAKING ME DIZZY.
WHERE AM I?

AH...
WHO IS IT?
WHO HAS BEEN SENT FORTH...?

FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
FOR A LONG TIME...
ARE YOU HURT, AKIRA?
...WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...
THIS IS WHAT...
THIS IS...
OH...

KYAA!
WHOA! THERE'S BLOOD, AKIRA!
HUH?
I DIDN'T HURT MYSELF ANYWHERE.
IT LOOKS LIKE A MAN-MADE ONE.
HMM? THERE'S A CAVE HERE
IF IT'S NOT BLOOD, THEN ISN'T IT JUST THE COLOR OF THE GROUND?
LOOK UNDER-NEATH YOUR FEET
THE ROCKS ARE.
BRIGHT ONLY IN THIS AREA

THAT'S RIGHT. IF WE DON'T FIND THE HAZUKI HOUSE-HOLD SOON,
OUR DAY OFF WILL GO TO WASTE!
THE ROCKS ARE PRO-BABLY RED...
BECAUSE THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCE AROUND HERE THAT'S ABUN-DANT IN IRON IT'S THE COLOR OF RUST
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM
THIS PLACE IS CREEPY
I DON'T WANT TO FALL OVER AND COLLAPSE LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO AKIRA
WE SHOULD FIND A VENDING MACHINE AND GET SOMETHING TO DRINK BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!
Kamakura didn't turn out to be a great summer resort... so hot...
Lest what happened to you happens to me
WE MUSN'T LET...
THIS GOOD FORTUNE ESCAPE
GO!

GO!

AH!

HAZUKI!!
DON'T WHIP, AKIRA! ARE YOU INTO THAT KIND OF THING!
No!
IT WASN'T ME, IT WAS AKIRA'S FAULT!
I DON'T WANT TO WALK BEHIND HAZUKI
STOP THAT! I REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
HMM...
SO, YOU HAD A TERRIBLE DAY IN KAMAKURA
THE THREE OF YOU DIDN'T SAY A WORD WHEN YOU ARRIVED
YOU WERE STRANDED IN A STEEP, SUNKEN ROAD ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME A GIFT, DESPITE THE TROUBLES YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED
IT'S TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T GET TO GO SIGHTSEEING IN KAMAKURA
OH!
THERE WAS A MAN-MADE RECTANGULAR CAVE IN THE PLACE WHERE I FELL
IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOME RUINS

HARU-SAN, IN THAT AREA,
IT REFERS TO AN OLD TOMB.
YAGURA?
A FLOAT USED IN FESTIVALS?
THAT WAS PROBABLY A "YAGURA".
A TOMB!
THE CITY OF KAMAKURA WAS BUILT ON A SMALL AREA OF LAND,
AND TOMBS WERE NOT PERMITTED WITHIN THE CITY.
SAMURAI AND PRIESTS WOULD DIG UP HOLES IN THE VALLEYS AND MOUNTAINS THAT SURROUND THE CITY,
AND BURY THE BONES OF THEIR FAMILIES THERE.
TO PRAY FOR THEIR PASSING ONTO THE PURE LAND.
A Buddha or Memorial Towers
Memorial Towers
Repository for ashes
MOST OF THEM ARE VERY OLD AND IN BAD CONDITION, THOUGH.
THE BURIAL CHAMBER, WHICH WAS MODELLED AFTER BUDDHIST TEMPLES, WOULD CONTAIN MEMORIAL TOWERS AND A BUDDHA.

I ALSO BROUGHT WITH ME KASANE'S HYOGO CHAIN*
WHICH I MANAGED TO RETRIEVE DURING MY SCHOOL TRIP
CLEANING UP THE DIRT THAT HAD ACCUMULATED BETWEEN THE GAPS IN THE CHAIN.
TOOK QUITE A LONG TIME
ASIDE FROM BUYING THAT SOUVENIR FROM KAMA-KURA
ACTUALLY, TODAY.
SO THEY'RE THAT OLD, THEN?
AH!
SORRY.
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER EXPLORING KAMAKURA
*Hyogo Chain - A metal fixture made from a chain that hangs from the belt.
ONE OF THE LOST PARTS OF HIS BODY IS GOING TO BE RETURNED TO HIM SOON!
I'M SURE HE'LL BE HAPPY!
KASANE!

AH...
ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL AGAIN?
I WONDER IF YOUR BLADE ISN'T CLEAN
HAH... YOU'RE HERE.
I'VE BEEN DOING WELL THESE PAST FEW DAYS,
THAT I CAN'T HELP FEELING TIRED
I SEE! THAT'S A RELIEF!
I ALREADY KNOW YOU'VE BROUGHT MY HYOGO CHAIN WITH YOU,
BUT I SUPPOSE I CAN PRETEND TO BE SURPRISED LATER.

HE DROPPED ME, DIDN'T HE?
OH?
AH.
AKIRA.
HANDLE THE SWORD CAREFULLY...
SORRY.
MY HAND SLIPPED. I'LL PUT IT BACK RIGHT AWAY...

I MUST BE TIRED
I WAS WANDERING AROUND THE MOUNTAINS OF KAMAKURA WITH KYOUZAKI AND HAZUKI, AFTER ALL.
I'LL PUT IT BACK RIGHT AWAY, SO DON'T GET...
ANGRY...

HEY!
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BE SO ROUGH
I JUST WANTED TO PUT THE CHAINS BACK ON
KAMA-KURA?!
WHERE IN KAMA-KURA?!
WHERE?
AT THE HOUSE OF HAZUKI'S FAMILY...
WHY WERE YOU WANDERING AROUND ON YOUR DAY OFF?!
AKIRA'S ARMS...
...HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY!
AND YOU GOT LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS, TOO! YOU IDIOT!

TAKE ME TO WHERE
YOU FELL YESTERDAY! RIGHT NOW!
DO AS I TELL YOU!
DON'T TALK BACK TO ME!
YOU WANT TO GO TO KAMAKURA RIGHT NOW?
OF COURSE WE CAN'T DO THAT!
KASANE...

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HIM TO MAKE STRANGE ACCUSATIONS.
OH, ARE YOU GOING HOME, AKIRA?
TAKE CARE!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH KASANE?
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DROPPED THAT PRECIOUS SWORD.
BUT, STILL!
"WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARMS?"
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN ASK...
THE PAIN CAUSED BY THE SEAL DISAPPEARED.
SO I LET MY GUARD DOWN AND SLEPT TOO MUCH.
SINCE AKIRA UNDID THE CURSE IN KYOTO,
IT'S MY FAULT.

DURING THAT TIME, AKIRA'S ARMS, WHICH ARE INDISPENSABLE TO A SWORD SHARPENER, WERE TORN OFF.
WAS IT A DEMON OR A CURSE?! WHY?!
I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL MYSELF A SACRED GUARDIAN BLADE NOW...
KASANE!
AH!

AKIRA.
HMM? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DONE THE PRELIMINARY SHARPENING YET.
WHY ARE YOU STARING AIMLESSLY AT YOUR HANDS LIKE THAT?
I WAS WONDERING HOW TO SHARPEN IT CLEANLY..
THEN START DOING SOMETHING, GENTLY AND CAREFULLY.
AN INEXPERIENCED PERSON WON'T GET GOOD RESULTS BY PRETENDING TO BE SMART
ALRIGHT.

THIS IS SO STRANGE
I HAVEN T BEEN ABLE TO MOVE MY HANDS THE WAY I WANT RECENTLY
I CAN DO OTHER THINGS IF I TAKE IT SLOWLY, BUT
I FEEL NUMB WHEN I TOUCH A SWORD
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHARPEN SWORDS LIKE THIS
IT'S NO GOOD...
AND DON'T YOU SEEM LESS VISIBLE TODAY?
WHY ARE ALL OF YOU SO QUIET?
USUALLY, YOU GUYS BOTHER ME ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING.
THAT'S RIGHT! FORGET ABOUT SHAR PENING SWORDS
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE TAKE A REST AND DON'T OVER EXERT YOUR-SELF

FORGET ABOUT IT...?
YOUR "SWORD HANDS" WERE TAKEN AWAY
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD A SWORD AGAIN!
FORGIVE US, WE'RE WORTH-LESS!
WE'VE ALLOWED HARM TO COME ONTO A DIRECT DESCEN-DANT OF KOUIN!
WHO ON EARTH DID THIS?
UUH...
LOOK, EVERYONE!

THE TIME FOR US TO SHINE IS HERE AT LAST!
GREAT COMMANDER HAGA
...HAS PRESENTED THE FINE SWORD SHARPENER'S ARMS.
...TO THE TOMB!
I'M SO GLAD!
I'VE WANTED TO TOUCH THOSE ARMS FOR SO LONG!
MASTER KUROGAWA, PLEASE ALLOW US TO TOUCH THEM NOW!
HAVE A BIT MORE PATIENCE, CRIMSON ONES...
WE CAN'T HOLD ON ANY LONGER!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.
MY MASTER, TSUNENOBU HAGA-SAMA, WAS SO SKILLED WITH A SWORD THAT HE WAS CALLED THE DARK GOD OF WAR.
THE SWORD HE SWUNG DOWN WHILST ON HORSEBACK MADE THE FOOT SOLDIERS' HEADS FALL LIKE THEY WERE AUTUMN LEAVES.
IF HIS SWORD BROKE AND HE CAME DOWN FROM HIS HORSE, HE WOULD FIGHT LIKE A POWERFUL GALE.
HE WAS PRAISED FOR THAT EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH...
HERE IT IS! IF WE OFFER OUR BROKEN SWORDS TO HAGA'S TOMB.
WE CAN KEEP ON WINNING OUR BATTLES
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR BROKEN SWORDS!

THE HUMANS FORGOT ABOUT US AND THE TOMB.
MANY YEARS PASSED BY...
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, SWORDS PILED UP IN THE SPACE IN FRONT OF THE TOMB.
OUR BITTERNESS AND FRUSTRATION,
WHILE WE LAMENTED
EVERY-ONE, HAND OVER THE BELTS YOU HANG YOUR SWORDS ON.
THESE ARMS WERE PRESENTED TO US BY HAGA-SAMA, WHO RESIDES IN THE REALM OF THE DEAD.
OUR APPEAR-ANCES TURNED US INTO PITIFUL SIGHTS!
USE MY LEATHER STRAP.
USE MY BELT.

TIE THEM UP.
STOP THE FLOW OF BLOOD!
NOW, THE SWORD SHARPENER'S ARMS WILL BECOME OUR SLAVES.
LOOK FOR A SHARPENING STONE! WE'LL GET THE ARMS TO WORK ON THE NEXT FULL MOON!
BEGONE! YOU DE-FILED SPIRITS!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING, TORAGIKU!
BE QUIET AND JUST KEEP ON SLICING THROUGH THEM! PROTECT THE YOUNG MASTER UNTIL THE SUN RISES!

IT SEEMS THAT DEFILED, EVIL SPIRITS HAVE TAKEN THE YOUNG MASTER'S ARMS.
THEY'RE SENDING THEIR SPIRITUAL POWER TO TAKE THEM AWAY.
WHAT IS IT?
MY HANDS FEEL SO COLD...
MY ARMS THEY'RE BLUE. IT SEEMS LIKE BLOOD ISN'T FLOWING THROUGH THEM.
BUT THEY DON'T HURT AND I CAN STILL MOVE MY FINGERS
TIME FOR BREAKFAST, AKIRA!
TELLING MY PARENTS ABOUT IT WOULD BE OVERREACTING.
I'M SURE I'LL BE FINE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS I'M SURE I WILL

GOOD MORNING, AKIRA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WEARING LONG SLEEVES IN THIS WEATHER!
AH IT'S BECAUSE OF MY ALLERGIES
AKIRA!
THE GUARDIAN SWORD OF THE HAZUKI FAMILY, HOUOU-KEN
I'M COMING INSIDE

I'M SURPRISED THAT A PROUD SWORD LIKE YOU
WOULD COME AND SEE ME
I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE
WELL, THIS IS UNUSUAL
IS THAT YOU, KASANE-DONO?
YOU'RE BOWING DOWN TO ME?
WELL, THIS IS AN INTERESTING SIGHT.
ALLERGIES?
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO EAT WITHOUT TELLING ME?
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO LOOK AT, I'LL SHOW YOU!
JUST PLEASE HELP ME!
HEY! NARIKAWA, KYOUZAKI!
WE'RE ON A BREAK TOMORROW, SO LET'S GO TO KAMAKURA AGAIN.

WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WE ONLY GOT TO SPEND HALF AN HOUR AT MY GRANDMOTHER'S VILLA THE LAST TIME.
MY GRANDMOTHER HAS BEEN COMPLAINING FOR DAYS THAT SHE DIDN'T GET TO MAKE YOU FEEL WELCOME.
ANYWAY, WE'RE GOING TO KAMAKURA TOMORROW. WE'LL HAVE A FULL COURSE MEAL AND A JACUZZI SO I DON'T END UP LOOKING SILLY!
I'M GOING TO A MATH SUMMIT TOMORROW.
THEN YOU'LL COME WITH ME, NARIKAWA!
YOUR BODY FEELS COLD.
AH
AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO SHOW MY ARMS TO MY PARENTS TOMORROW.
You can't turn anyone down, can you?
Hello?
I'LL GET THEM TO PREPARE THE OUTDOOR BATH.
WELCOME TO KAMAKURA, NARIKAWA-KUN.
YOU'LL DEFINITELY HAVE FUN TODAY.

BUT I GUESS THINGS GOT AWKWARD AFTER WE ARGUED. SO I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE
HE REALLY WANTED TO COME TO KAMAKURA
KASANE'S HYOGO CHAIN
THE MISTRESS ASKED ME TO BRING THIS HERE.
I'M SORRY FOR COMING ROUND SO LATE
I'VE BEEN RIGHT BESIDE YOU THE WHOLE TIME!
HE'S BEING SO DIFFICULT, EVEN IF HE'S A SWORD
YOU JUST CAN'T SENSE ME BECAUSE YOUR SWORD SHARPENING ARMS GOT TAKEN AWAY!
I'M...
I'M UNDER-AGE!
COME ON, EAT UP. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE?
NARIKAWA-KUN.
OUR BODIES WILL BE CLEANSED!
THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SHARPENING ARE COMPLETE!
ズ"
ズ"
ズ"
IT'S THE FULL MOON.
IT'S TIME FOR THE FEAST.

IT'S WINE! THIS IS WINE!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELVES.
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KEEP IT HIDDEN FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.
YOU'RE...
LET ME JOIN IN,
SWORDS OF THE TOMB
KASANE!

DON'T LET HIM DRINK IT, YOU IDIOT!
HE'LL DRINK LIKE A FISH, AND END UP IN A DRUNKEN FRENZY!
THE FLAVOR OF A THOU-SAND YEARS
IT TASTES LIKE RUST
I DON'T THINK SOMEONE HONORABLE LIKE YOU
WOULD COME HERE TO SEE US.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
AREN'T THOSE THE ARMS OF A HUMAN BEING?
WHAT'S THAT?

I CUT THEM OFF.
THEY'RE GOING TO SHARPEN US UNTIL THEY'RE GONE.
A YOUNG SHARPENER HAS COME DOWN TO US
A MESSENGER FROM HEAVEN? OR A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FROM THE GREAT COMMANDER, HAGA-SAMA?
HOW PATHETIC.
SO SWORDS THAT SHOULD HAVE THE WILL TO PROTECT PEOPLE.
HAVE FALLEN THIS FAR, HAVEN'T THEY?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S RIGHT!

KASANE! IT CAN'T BE. DID YOU COME HERE FOR THE SWORD SHARPENER'S ARMS?!
DID YOU COME TO TAKE THEM AWAY FROM US?!
HOW TERRIBLE THAT IS.
YOU'RE A SWORD, TOO, SO YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND...
WE WERE ABANDONED BY THE MASTERS WE LOVED AND RES-PECTED
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SHARPENED AND HAVE ALWAYS HAD A PLACE TO STAY!
OUCH!
KASANE WENT OUT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?
THE HYOGO CHAIN ISN'T HERE

BEGONE, KASANE!
WE NEED THESE ARMS
TO STAY ALIVE!
MY HANDS!
UGH...
THAT'S WHY YOU CUT OFF THE ARMS OF AN INNOCENT YOUNG MAN?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CORPSES STRUGGLE, YOU WON'T BE SAVED.

AND RETURN TO THE LAND.
TURN INTO BLACK SAND,
RETURN TO WHERE YOU WERE BORN.
HUMANS TURNED US INTO CORPSES! IF WE'RE GOING TO HELL,
WE'LL TAKE THESE FINE ARMS WITH US!

YOU PITIFUL, FORGOTTEN SWORDS...
THAT WERE ABAN-DONED IN THE CAVE.

GO TOGETHER WITH THE RUST THAT CLUNG TO THE ROCKS.
IF THINGS GO WELL, YOU MAY BE REBORN AS NEW SWORDS.
I HOPE YOU'LL FIND GOOD MAS-TERS

KASANE
KASANE!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
I COULDN'T FIND YOU LAST NIGHT,
AND YOUR CHAIN IS COMPLETELY BLACK!
I WAS WORRIED SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU

I WONDER IF I CAN CLEAN THIS...
JEEZ
IT'S ABOUT TIME I PUT THESE BACK
WORRIED, HMM?
どばっ
AH, THAT'S A RELIEF
COMING TO KAMAKURA HAS CHEERED KASANE UP! I'M GRATEFUL TO HAZUKI
MY ARMS SEEM TO BE FINE NOW TOO
Ah, there's an iron folding fan flying through the sky
WHERE?!

TODAY I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A HAUNTED SPOT IN OLD KAMAKURA
YOU'RE GOING TO SIT ON MY SHOULDERS?
KASANE,
BEING BURNED BY YOUR FLAMES FELT UNEXPECTEDLY GOOD.
SOMEDAY, I WOULD LIKE TO BE GATHERED AS BLACK SAND, FORGED IN A FURNACE,
AND REBORN AS A SWORD WITH A NOBLE HEART.

Sword of the Tomb - END

Credits

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第14話 妖刀

Exhibition of Famous Historical Swords
AKIRA, YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.
TH-THIS IS A SHORT SWORD MADE BY THE SKILLED CRAFTSMAN, KOTETSU...
THIS ...
THAT'S NAGAMITSU, UESUGI KENSHIN'S TREASURED SWORD.
AND THIS IS RAIKUNIMITSU, WHICH THE MATSUDAIRA FAMILY RECEIVED FROM YOSHI-MUNE.
YOU'RE SO USELESS IN SCHOOL,
BUT WHEN YOU'RE AROUND SWORDS, YOU'RE AS LIVELY AS A DOG ABOUT TO GO FOR A WALK.
A walk!

EMPEROR GO-TOBA WAS AN ECCENTRIC RULER WHO PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THE FORGING OF SWORDS.
THESE... THESE SWORDS WERE MADE BY EMPEROR GO-TOBA'S SWORDSMITHS!
OH!
WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE IS THAT, HUH?
HE HAD A WORKSHOP INSIDE THE PALACE AND SUMMONED FAMOUS ARTISANS EVERY MONTH,
EACH OF THE SWORDSMITHS WOULD FORGE A SWORD, AND THE EMPEROR PAID FOR ALL OF THEM.
NORIMUNE WOULD MAKE ONE IN JANUARY, KIDAITSUGU WOULD MAKE ANOTHER FOR FEBRUARY, AND SO FORTH.
I'VE HEARD OF THIS ONE OVER HERE: "MURAMASA".
LOOK AT THE PATTERN ON THE BLADE DONE BY THE ICHIMONJI. IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
HALF THE SMITHS ON DUTY DURING THE YEAR WERE FROM THE "ICHIMONJI" GROUP.
He used to temper the swords himself.
PRETTY EASY-GOING EMPEROR, WASN'T HE?
HE WAS A SURPRISINGLY COMPETENT SWORDSMITH HIMSELF.

IT'S CALLED "MURAMASA THE DEMON SWORD," ISN'T IT?
CAN'T IMAGINE WHY IT'D BE CALLED 'DEMONIC', THOUGH.
OH,
THAT'S BECAUSE TOKUGAWA IEYASU HATED THAT SWORD.
THE SWORD WHICH DEFEATED HIS GRANDFATHER AND ASSASSINATED HIS FATHER WERE FORGED BY A CRAFTSMAN CALLED MURAMASA
THE SWORD USED BY THE SECOND WHEN HIS SON COMMITTED SEPUKU WAS ALSO ONE OF HIS CREATIONS
WHEN IEYASU WAS A CHILD, HE WAS WOUNDED BY A SHORT SWORD THAT WAS MADE BY MURAMASA.
IEYASU HAD A BUNCH OF BAD EXPERIENCES, HUH.
HE'S SAYING AWFUL THINGS ABOUT ME AGAIN
IT'S ALL RIGHT, THE ICHIMONJI SWORDS ARE POPULAR
DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART, MURAMASA-DONO
HMM?

WOW... I'M BEING EXAMINED BY THE FAMOUS SWORDS I ADMIRE SO MUCH!
LET ME SEE
HMM...
ARE YOU FROM THE SCHOOL OF SANJO OF KOUIN?
YOU... CAN SEE US! AND HEAR US AS WELL!
AND YOU HAVE THE HANDS OF A SWORD-SHARPENER!
HMMM? THERE'S AN UNUSUAL BOY HERE
THE SWORDS ARE MORE CURIOUS THAN I AM.
STOP THAT, PLEASE.
HEY, AKIRA
THERE'S AN INTERESTING SWORD OVER HERE
CAREFUL! YAMIGIRIMARU IS IN THAT ROOM
DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HIM, YOUNG SWORD SHARPENER!

MY, WHAT A WONDERFUL SWORD.
ITS SHINE IS ALMOST BEWITCHING
HUH?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
THE SWORD IS COMPLETELY BLACK.
IT DOESN'T REFLECT LIGHT AT ALL.
"THE DEMON SWORD, YAMIGIRI-MARU."
"BLOOD WOULD RAIN DOWN WHEREVER IT WENT...
ANYONE WHO WIELDS THIS SWORD WILL BE OVERCOME BY THE DESIRE FOR BLOOD,
AND STEAL INTO TOWN UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS."

LOOK, IT HAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PATTERN.
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE.
WASN'T IT MORE LIKE A CURSED GOD OF POVERTY, THEN?
THEY'D SLAY OTHERS AS THOUGH THEY WERE INSANE
THE FOUR FAMILIES THAT THIS SWORD HAS PASSED THROUGH HAVE ALL BEEN DESTROYED
THIS MAN...
NO EVERYONE ELSE SEES A NORMAL SWORD?
INTERESTING
THIS IS...
AN INTERESTING VESSEL...

THERE'S TROUBLE, EVERYONE!
YAMI-GIRI-MARU.
YAMIGIRI-MARU HAS AWAKENED!
THIS PERSON HAS QUITE AN INTRIGUING CONNECTION WITH SWORDS
WHAT A PURE SOUL!
HEHE HEHE
HEHE.
I THINK I'LL HAVE FUN DESTROYING HIM.
COME... COME OUT INTO THE DARKNESS!

City Hall of Martial Arts
MARTIAL ARTS?
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO HERE?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, AKIRA?!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN ALL THE EXHIBITS!
ドスッ
なぁ
I COULDN'T CUT IT—
What a waste of straw post
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HESITATED!
WHEN YOU FIGHT A REAL ENEMY, THE OUTCOME IS DECIDED AT THE MOMENT THE SWORD IS FIRST DRAWN..
STEP OUT LIKE THIS..
OH, IT'S TSUKAHARA-SENSEI!
HE HE, LOOKS LIKE YOU MESSED UP
WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IAI* EXPERIENCE; I CAN'T LET YOU BORROW IT.
NARI-KAWA-KUN?
I'M HERE TO BOR-ROW THAT SWORD
WHY NOT?
A SHARPENER LIKE ME IS MORE USED TO HANDLING SWORDS THAN YOU ARE, SENSEI.
NARI-KAWA!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!

*IAI IS A MODERN MARTIAL ART ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVEMENTS OF DRAWING, STRIKING, REMOVING BLOOD FROM, AND RE-SHEATHING OF A SWORD

HUH...?
I WAS IN THE MUSEUM JUST NOW...
IT'S PITCH BLACK, AND I CAN'T SEE A THING
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY EYES?
WHOA!
KYOUZAKI, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
KYOU-ZAKI!

I WAS LOOKING AT THE SWORDS WITH KYOUZAKI JUST NOW, WEREN'T I?
THE SWORDS WERE MADE BY THE EMPEROR'S SWORDSMITHS AND MURAMASA.
LET ME SEE.
HMM
I WAS SPENDING TIME WITH THE SPIRITS, TOO.
ARE YOU FROM THE SCHOOL OF SANJO OF KOUJI?
AFTER THAT, I LOOKED AT THE DEMON SWORD, YAMIGIRIMARU, AND WAS SURPRISED.
BE CAREFUL.
YAMIGIRIMARU IS THERE.
DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HIM!
JUST LIKE HIS NAME SUGGESTS, HE IS PITCH BLACK.
A MYSTERIOUS SWORD THAT WIPED OUT ENTIRE CLANS...

KYOUZAKI... YOU'RE AROUND ME EVERY DAY.
DON'T YOU FIND SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT MY BEHAVIOR?
YOU SEEM REALLY LIVELY TODAY.
BEING AROUND SWORDS REALLY CHANGES YOU, DOESN'T IT?
WHEN'D YOU LEARN TO USE A SWORD?
I HAD NO IDEA!
SO WHERE'RE WE GOING NEXT?
GO TO SCHOOL LIKE YOU ARE NOW! YOU'LL BE POPULAR.
I FEEL MOST AT EASE WHEN I AM AMIDST THE DARKNESS OF PEOPLE'S SOULS.
WHERE?
I HAVEN'T BEEN IN SUCH A YOUNG BODY FOR A LONG TIME.

HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
COME TO ME, THOSE WHO HARBOR DARKNESS!

WAIT A MINUTE. I'M COMPENSATING FOR THE WEAKNESS IN MY MEMORY...
I'M CERTAIN THAT A NEW LIBRARY WITH A GEODESIC DOME WAS BUILT.
HMP
KYOUZAKI
GO TO THAT THING... THE CROSSING OVER THERE.
ビュッ
THE MATHEMATICAL CONSTRUCTION...
SO, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT IS...
EVEN IF IT'S A WOMAN OR A CHILD...
HE REALLY IS A STRANGE GUY...

YOU'RE... THE FIRST DARKNESS?
MY EXPEC-TATIONS WEREN'T MET...
COME ON, THEN.
CUT ME TO PIECES.
BUT ATTACKING YOU...
WILL BE MORE REFRESH-ING

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IS ANYONE THERE?!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WAAAH!
ゴレ
ゴレ
BLOOD ...
AAAH!
OOPS!
AH!

GIVE UP!
YOU'VE BEEN TRAPPED! THERE'S NO POINT IN STRUG-GLING!
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED? BY WHOM?
NOW THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER IN USE,
YOU'RE BEING STAINED BY THE DARK-NESS.

OH?
...!
DON'T...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
I KNOW THIS SENSATION.
*TANG=THE PART OF THE BLADE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE HANDLE
SENSATION OF THE TANG*!
THE ROUGH, YET SMOOTH,
I'VE KNOWN IT FOR A LONG TIME.
DRIED CLOVE OIL...
THIS IS...
THE FAINT SCENT OF OLD,
THIS SMELL...
I REMEMBER THIS PLACE, TOO.

Math
HEY, YOU!
WE SAW YOU IN THE PARK EARLIER.
YOU TOOK THAT GUY WITH THE KNIFE
USING JUST A TREE BRANCH?
YOU TURNED HIM INTO A BLOODY MESS.
AH.
THAT WAS NOTHING.
A SWORD.
I'M INSIDE A SWORD!

WANT SOME CASH?
WE'D LIKE A LITTLE HELP FROM YOU.
A LITTLE?
I CAN FINISH THEM OFF FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
ギク!
YOU... DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT MUCH!
JUST ROUGH THEM UP A LITTLE.

SHOULD I TEXT YOUR MOM TO SAY WE DON'T NEED DINNER?
YEAH.
THANKS.

I'LL BE GOING OUT FOR A BIT, KYOUZAKI WAIT FOR ME
NOW?
もえる数学

HE'S GOOD...
YEAH... THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO DO.
HEY, THAT'S ENOUGH!
WE MIGHT END UP KILLING HIM! WE'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY!

IT'S ..
IT'S NECESSARY FOR ME... INVITING MISFORTUNE.
H-HEY, NOW! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DRAGGING INTO THE DEEP DARKNESS.
THAT IS MY MISSION.
SHOW ME BLOOD!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
INTRODUCE ME TO DESTRUCTION SO GREAT
THAT MY HAIR STANDS ON END.

WHY'D YOU BEAT UP YOUR FRIENDS?
YOU CAME TO DEAL WITH ME, RIGHT?
WAIT!
JOIN UP WITH ME I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU
SO WE LOST ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
THEY'RE NOT THAT SMART.

WHO WERE THOSE GUYS EARLIER?
YOU'RE LATE, AKIRA!
YOUR EVIL DEED'S ARE TOO SIMPLE;
THEY DON'T INTEREST ME.
HERE, YOUR DINNER.
IT'S WHAT YOU USUALLY HAVE; THE COFFEE'S GONE COLD, THOUGH
..
I'M HOME! IS THE BATH READY?
Akira's mom
WELCOME BACK, KYOU-ZAKI. YOU ACT MORE LIKE MY CHILD THAN AKIRA DOES.

DON'T MOVE!
GIVE US BACK THE YOUNG MASTER!
WE'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU.
I'M SURPRISED ALL OF YOU TURNED OUT TO WELCOME ME.
SO THIS IS WHERE THE SWORDS ARE SHARPENED? HMM...
SINCE WHEN DID SWORDS BECOME BABY-SITTERS?
YOU'VE BEEN SHARPENED SO FREQUENTLY THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR DESIRE TO KILL?
YOU ARE IMPURE, NO TWO WORDS ABOUT IT!
NONSENSE! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF THE SWORD!

AH!
I CAN CUT THIS BODY TO PIECES
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU ALL
AKIRA'S INSIDE THE WORKSHOP THIS LATE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WENT TO THAT EXHIBITION OF FAMOUS SWORDS TODAY.

EXCITED BY LEARNING ABOUT THE FORGING OF ANCIENT SWORDS, NO DOUBT
AKIRA!
SO, THAT EXHI-BITION TODAY ...
カラ
AKIRA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
COME HERE!

!
GRAND-PA...
キョロ…
THE FEELINGS OF BLOOD-THIRSTINESS... THEY DISAP-PEARED...
AH...
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN? TELL ME!
I ONLY BROUGHT YOU BACK
SO THAT OLD MAN WOULDN'T FIND OUT

BUT... I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
IT'S NOTHING.
YAMIGIRIMARU HAS TAKEN OVER YOUR BODY AND IS TRYING TO COMMIT EVIL DEEDS!
RIGHT, YOUNG MASTER!
GET SOME ADVICE FROM KOUZAN-DONO!
THE DEMON SWORD THAT POSSESSED ME?
GOOD BOY
I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOUR BODY
TOMORROW, I'LL ACCOM-PANY YOU TO SCHOOL
GOOD-NIGHT, GRANDPA.

AKIRA
AKIRA...
AKIRA ALREADY LEFT FOR SCHOOL, GRANDPA.
HE WENT AHEAD WITHOUT ME!
YOU STAYED OVER AGAIN?
SO, THIS IS A SCHOOL?
IT'S AN AWFUL PLACE,
BUT THE ROTTEN STENCH OF DARKNESS IS DRIFTING FROM SOME-WHERE.
WHERE IS IT?
I'LL RELEASE YOU
FROM TH, T DARKNESS.

YOU WERE WITH AKIRA YESTERDAY, WEREN'T YOU?
WAS HE ACTING STRANGELY?
WELL...
HIS PERSONALITY CHANGES WHEN HE SEES A SWORD, DOESN'T IT?
HE SAW PLENTY OF SWORDS AT THE MUSEUM, THEN HE SPENT ALL OF YESTERDAY ACTING LIKE A SAMURAI
HE RAN INTO THE MARTIAL ARTS STADIUM NEXT DOOR AND SLICED A STRAW POST!
HEY, KYOUZAKI'S HERE!
KYOUZAKI! YOUR FRIEND'S IN TROUBLE!
AKIRA!

A LESSON...
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON BY LETTING YOU FALL!
キィ
THE PTA IS SO ANNOYING! NOW DARE THEY SAY
I'M NOT SKILLED ENOUGH TO BE A TEACHER? THEY MADE ME OUT TO BE A FOOL!
GOOD... I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS BODY
PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IT!

SHUT UP, KID!
KYOUZAKI...
LET GO, LADY!
DON'T LET HER BEAT YOU, AKIRA!
AAH!
AH...

I SAW...
YAMAZAKI-SENSEI'S BLOOD.
I HEARD THAT A THIRD-YEAR GIRL WAS CRUSHED!
WHOA!
BUT WHY'D SHE ATTACKED NARI-KAWA?
SHE WENT CRAZY AFTER THE PTA CRITI-CIZED HER.
SHE'S NOT EVEN NARIKAWA'S HOME-ROOM TEACHER, SO WHY'D DO THAT TO *HIM*? WEIRD.
OH? WHERE'S THE TEA-CHER?
ROLL CALL'S NOT DONE YET?
ぴたっ

HEY, HAZUKI. LATE BECAUSE OF YOUR ANAEMIA, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SAFE TODAY, THANKS TO US.
HAZUKI.
IT'S A VERY INTE-RESTING STORY.. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
THE DOOR OPEN-ED!
ALTHOUGH IT WOULDN'T OPEN BEFORE NO MATTER WHAT...?

THIS IS...
I SUPPOSE THIS.
MUST BE THE WORLD INSIDE THE SWORD.
サラ.
サラ
シャッ
シャッ
I'M WEARING MY UNIFORM.
HE WENT TO MY SCHOOL.
HMPH
HUMAN!
YOU ARE MY MASTER'S PREY!
HOW DID YOU ESCAPE YOUR CELL?!

INSIDE YAMIGIRI-MARU?
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE THERE SO MANY OF YOU
MASTER HAS BEEN CONSIDERATE ENOUGH TO GIVE US HIS LEFTOVERS.
AHA!
ガヤ
どろ
どろ
HE CAN SEE US?!
THAT BOY...!
CATCH HIM!

*THE ARARAGI SCHOOL TAKES ITS NAME FROM A MAGAZINE OF TANKA (SHORT POEMS) TO WHICH MOKICHI SAITOU WAS A CONTRIBUTOR.
THE MAIN FIGURE OF THE ARARAGI* SCHOOL, MOKICHI SAITOU
SO...
PROLE-TARIAN LITERA-TURE
IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE WITH TWO VICTIMS FROM THIS MOR-NING'S INCIDENT IN MY CLASS.
HE'S SO SCARY TODAY
PERHAPS THAT'S THE REASON
WHY DID I YELL AT NARIKAWA NOT TO TOUCH ME?
DID YOU KNOW TH..T NARIKAWA
WAS ALMOST KILLED IN THE STAFF ROOM THIS MOR-NING?
THAT WAS... PRETTY TERRIBLE OF ME.

W-WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING THE MATTER?
SENSEI.
MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
I'M FEELING KIND OF TIRED TODAY.
CAN I GO HOME EARLY?
OH!
OF COURSE YOU CAN!
I'LL TELL YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER. YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.

INTERESTING...
THESE BONDS WITH THE SWORDS THAT SURROUND HIM...
ARE NOT ORDINARY BONDS.
THAT GIRL IS INTERESTING, BUT SHE IS PROTECTED BY A POWERFUL FEMALE SWORD.
BECAUSE OF THAT, NOT EVEN I CAN DO AS I WISH
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS...
KASANE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE DAY YOU CALL ME "MASTER" IS FINALLY UPON YOU
YOU FILTHY DARK SWORD!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I CAN USE THIS BODY AS I WISH!
AS YOU WISH?
NOW, I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN THE DARKNESS.
I'LL MAKE LOVE TO A PROSTITUTE AND CUT A MAN TO PIECES ON A DIRTY PATH!
I SUPPOSE YOU TRAPPED THE SOUL.
HAHA
I WONDER IF YOU'LL REALLY BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

OF THE PERSON YOU'VE POSSESSED INSIDE A DARK SWORD AGAIN
WATCH OUT, YAMI-GIRIMARU
THE SOUL THAT'S CURRENTLY WITHIN YOU
BELONGS TO AN HONEST SWORD SHARPENER
I WILL DEVOUR HIM!
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET AHEAD OF ME?!
WHAT?!
LET'S WAIT FOR MASTER TO RETURN HOME
WHY DO THAT?!
HE LOOKS SO TASTY...

*KINSUJI = ONE OF THE TEMPER PATTERNS WHICH RUNS ALONG THE TEMPER LINE.
*NIOI & ARANIE = TOGETHER THEY MAKE UP THE BLADE PATTERN. THE NIOI CANNOT BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE

HE IS A SWORD SHARPENER
AND HIS HANDS AND SHOULDERS
OH, MY! WHAT A STRANGE HUMAN!
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
I CAN'T STAND IT...
IT FEELS GOOD AS THE FIRST TIME I WAS SENT TO BE SHARPENED...
AH...
THE SMELL OF AN UCHI-GUMORI STONE!
IT'S MY TURN NEXT!
WE CAN'T DO THAT!
WHY DON'T YOU DEAL WITH ME QUICKLY AND STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH?
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ME, AREN'T YOU?

OF COURSE NOT!
THIS IS BECAUSE OUR MASTER'S MAGIC POWERS ARE SO STRONG
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING
THE INSIDE OF A SWORD
OUR MASTER IS A SPECIAL SWORD!
INSIDE AN ORDINARY SWORD, THE NIE AND NIOI WOULDN'T HAVE FORMS LIKE OURS
DO ALL SWORDS HAVE HOUSES AND TEMPER PATTERNS WITH HUMA-NOID FORMSP
HIS BIRTH WAS A CURSED ONE

IT WAS A HUMAN WHO BROUGHT THIS MISFORTUNE ON OUR MASTER
OUR MASTER WAS BORN TO BE BATHED IN BLOOD!
BUT... A SWORDSMITH CAN'T MAKE A 'CURSED SWORD'!
HE REFINES HIS HEART DURING THE CREATION PROCESS SO THAT THE SWORD BECOMES AS PURE AS POSSIBLE!
YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL STU-DENT?
THAT'S RATHER SURPRI-SING
DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?
I'M THE MAN WHOSE OFFICE YOU DESTROYED YESTERDAY.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU,
I WANT TO OFFER YOU AN ALLIANCE.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN
GOING ALONG WITH YOUR GAMES ANYMORE
ズン
IF YOU'RE IN POSSESSION OF SUCH DEEP DARKNESS,
I WILL TAKE THAT DARKNESS.
I AM YAMIGIRIMARU,
A SWORD BORN TO BRING HUMAN GRUDGES TO FRUITION!

I'M REALLY PLANNING TO EAT YOU!
STOP!
HMM?
HMM?
HEY! COME BACK!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU GO ANY FURTHER!
AH
KINSU-JI, YOU FOOL!
AH! THAT PLACE IS...!

A BLACK HOUSE...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LET'S GO!
MY INNER S.ANC-TUA-RY?!
HE EN-TERED

THIS IS...!

NO!
YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
THIS IS
THE BLACKSMITH'S FORGE WHERE YAMIGIRIMARU WAS CREATED.
CAN YOU HEAR ME, YAMIGIRI-MARU?
SHOW ME YOUR TRUE FORM!
AHHH!
MY LORD!
MY LORD!

THIS RESENTMENT WHICH CAN-NOT... WHICH MUST NOT BE FORGOT-TEN!
THE SWORD MY LORD USED TO COMMIT SUICIDE WAS DESTROYED, SO
UMECHIYO, WHO WAS OUR LAST HOPE, WAS MURDERED BY TODA'S MEN IN THE TEMPLE WHERE SHE WAS BEIND HELD.
AND THE FAMILY WAS DIVIDED
THIS WAS TODA DONO'S SCHEME
MY LORD WAS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT
A PIECE OF THAT SWORD WITH MY HAIR WRAPPED AROUND IT
WAS PLACED WITHIN THE TODA CLAN'S SWORD!
AAH!
YOU REALLY INTEND TO DENY ME MY RE QUEST?
SWORDS ARE SACRED OBJECTS
I CAN'T DO THIS! ISN'T THIS... A CURSE?

IF YOU REFUSE TO DO AS I SAY, I WILL SLAY YOUR WIFE AND CHHILDREN!
SWORD... I PLACE A GREAT CURSE ON YOU.
DRIVE THE TODA FAMILY TO MADNESS!
USE THIS SWORD TO MASSACRE THE ENTIRE CLAN!

I ONLY DID WHAT THE HUMANS WANTED ME TO DO...
SWORD SHAR-PENER!
STOP!

YAMIGIRIMARU,
THE FRAGMENTS OF HATRED INSIDE YOU...
STOP!
YOUR HAND WILL BE BURNT! YOU'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO SHARPEN SWORDS!
AH...
THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD COMPREHEND THE DEPTH OF THAT GRUDGE,
NOR DID I WANT TO.

HIS HANDS ARE..
ON MY NECK?
AGH!
BUT I CAN'T FORGIVE
YAMIGIRI-MARU SUFFE-RING FOREVER BECAUSE OF
THIS METAL, SO INFUSED WITH HATRED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DIDN'T YOU LEAVE EARLY?
YOU'RE A SCAREDY-CAT, BUT YOU'RE STILL HANGING AROUND A CRIME SCENE?
IT'S AWFUL, THEY'RE ALL COVERED IN BLOOD!

AH... I'LL HAVE TO RETURN SOON..
KYOUZAKI, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
YES I SUDDENLY HEARD A METALLIC SOUND,
AND WHEN I INSPECTED YAMIGIRI-MARU, I NOTICED A SCRATCH ON ITS BLADE.
IN THE CENTER OF THIS AREA,
THIS MARK MAKES IT LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT PIECE OF METAL WAS EMBEDDED HERE.
WHERE'S THE TRIANGULAR PIECE THAT BROKE OFF?
HAVE A LOOK.
THERE'S SOME DUST BENEATH THE SCRATCH THAT LOOKS LIKE ASH.
GRANDPA, YOU CAME!
AKIRA.

DAD IS..?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DID I... DO SOMETHING WRONG?
YOUR FATHER'S AT YOUR SCHOOL RIGHT NOW
EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW, AKIRA'S BACK TO NORMAL.
WHAT'S WITH THE CROWD OF PEOPLE? THAT'S YAMIGIRIMARU'S DISPLAY CASE, ISN'T IT?
OH, THEY'RE PROBABLY A GROUP RETURNING FROM A HOT SPRINGS VACATION OR SOMETHING
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S MANAGED TO FREE YOURSELF FROM YAMIGIRIMARU'S POSSESSION.

YAMI-GIRI-MARU?
WHO'S THAT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEFORE
YOU'RE YAMIGIRIMARU, THE DEMON BLADE?!
EH?!
NOW I AM TOO ASHAMED TO CALL MYSELF THE DEMON BLADE OR YAMIGIRIMARU.
THAT YOUNG MAN SCOURED AWAY YEARS OF DIRT THAT HAD ENCRUSTED UPON ME

RIGHT!
I'LL TELL THIS INEXPERIENCED SWORD SHARPENER A SECRET.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD IT
IS IT THE NAME OF... A WHETSTONE?
HMPH.
BEAR YOUR SHAME AND ASK YOUR TEACHER ABOUT IT.
TA
KI
O
THAT WORD IS COMPLETELY MISSING FROM YOUR VOCABULARY.
WHAT?!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TAKIO IS?!
IT'S YOUR BEST FRIEND'S NAME! TAKIO KYOUZAKI!
I DON'T REMEMBER RAISING MY GRANDSON TO BE LIKE THIS, AKIRA!
DEMON BLADE ~ END

Credits

ENIGMA ‖ SCANNER & EDITOR
YUKI ‖ CLEANER & QC
CHRYS ‖ TYPESETTER & QC
ENIX ‖ PROOFREADER & QC

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